



## **Yes on SB 5521 and SB 5525**

The Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP) was formed 112 years ago in 1909. In the 18 years following that formation the OANP had one primary goal above all others. State licensing.

In 1927 a medical practices act was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor providing for the formation of an independent state licensing board to regulate naturopathic medicine. That board is known today as the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine (OBNM). This independent licensing board was entrusted with the authority to license doctors who meet education, training, and testing standards to practice naturopathic medicine and to regulate those licensees.

It is in the constitution of this nation that the authority to license and regulate the practice of medicine belongs to the states. States invest that regulatory authority in licensing boards to regulate and judge that practice by an expert panel of peers. The role of a medical licensing board is for peer review and judgement of standards of professional ethics and medical care.

In the 94 years since Oregon first provided for an independent board to license and regulate naturopathic physicians, that board has served to keep the citizens of Oregon safe from incompetent, unprofessional, unethical and reckless practitioners. All for the purpose of allowing Oregonians access to experts in the natural medicines of this planet.

Naturopathic physicians have an excellent patient safety record in the state of Oregon. The Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine continues to hold the profession to account. The real time public notification of disciplinary actions can be found on the board's website : <https://www.oregon.gov/OBNM/Pages/default.aspx>

Board independence is important because of the depth of expertise found in each medical profession, the specialization of that expertise, and the sometimes guild-like behavior of rival medical professions. Oregonians deserve to be kept safe, and to maintain choice in how they pursue health and medical care. The OBNM accomplishes both of these things as currently formulated, reporting directly into the executive branch of state government.

It is important that the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine be both self-funding and independent. This is accomplished through the annual licensing fees paid by Oregon naturopathic physicians. Fees the profession is willing to see increased as needed to maintain that independence.

For this reason OANP supports both the OBNM biennial budget put forth in SB 5521 and the licensing fee increases found in SB 5525. We ask that both of these state budget measures be passed, and that OBNM maintain its independence outside of the Oregon Health Authority.

**Sincerely,**

Jeff Clark, ND, Legislative Chair  
**Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians**